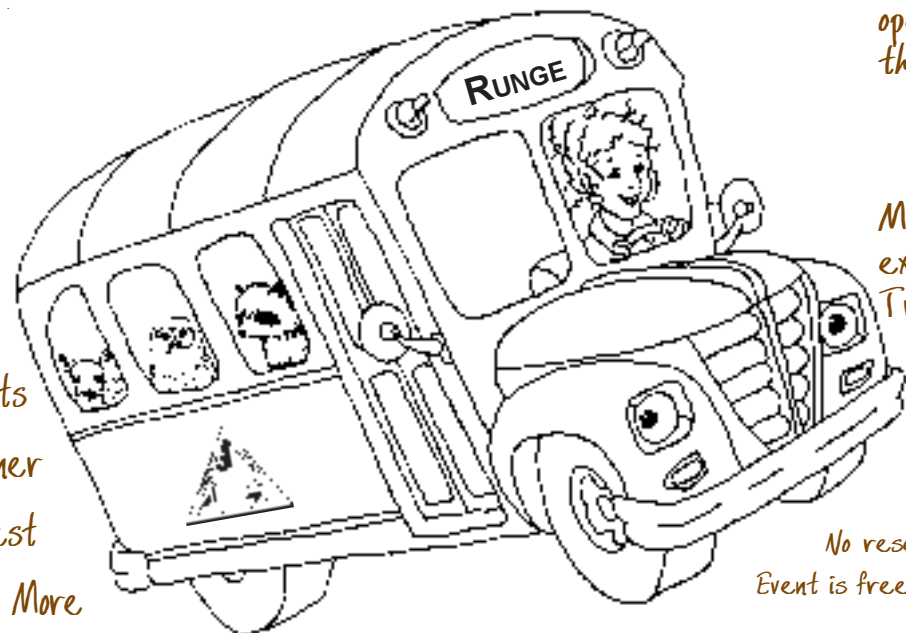


Haunted Habitats

October 25, 2002
Rain date - October 26, 2002
6-9pm

The Magic School Bus®
Explores Runge
Inside and Out!



- ♦ Crafts
- ♦ Games
- ♦ Refreshments
- ♦ Costume Corner
- ♦ Coloring Contest
- ♦ Much, Much, More

~Inside~
The Exhibit Area will be open for families to get the inside scoop on nature.

~Outside~
Ms. Frizzle and friends explore the Naturescape Trail. (ages 3-7 years)

No reservations required.
Event is free and open to the public.

Runge Conservation Nature Center is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north on 179 for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM and Noon to 5 PM on Sundays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. No admission fee. PHONE: 573/526-5544 FAX: 573/526-4496 <<http://www.conservation.state.mo.us>>



HABITAT HAPPENINGS

A newsletter from the
RUNGE
CONSERVATION
NATURE CENTER

September & October 2002

Mushrooms

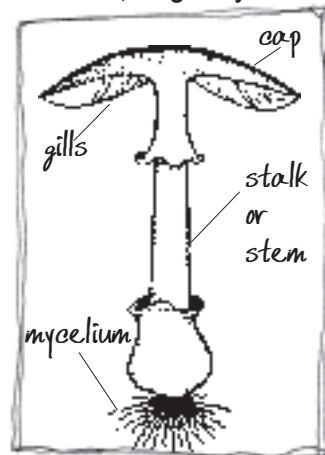
Fungi (fuñ-gī), as the entire group of mushrooms is referred to, are neither plants nor animals, but are important decomposers that feed on decaying organic matter.

With names like stinkhorn, beefsteak, turkey tail, and brown witch's butter, fungi may seem like strange and exotic organisms. Fungi, however, are all around us every day. Athlete's foot, ringworm, yeast, bread molds, and mildew are all types of fungi! Fungi do not always cause harm to humans, but can be very useful. Without some important fungi, we would not have penicillin or drugs that help humans accept transplanted organs. We would also be without baking, brewing, and dairy practices that are vital to many common food products.

If you are of the adventurous type and would like to discover edible fungi on your own, you are hereby forewarned that stalking the wild mushroom is not to be taken lightly. Although you will not shrink or grow by tasting unknown mushrooms, like Alice in Wonderland,

you may experience serious gastric disturbance from eating even a small piece of a poisonous mushroom. Learn to identify the edible species in your area, and be familiar with their poisonous "look-alikes." There are no shortcuts when it comes to identifying mushrooms you plan to eat.

If you are a mycophagist (mushroom eater) at heart, be sure to stock up on a variety of field guides before venturing outdoors, and bring a map of any unfamiliar hunting grounds. Many a mushroom hunter have discovered areas abundant with mushroom delicacies, only to forget where this plentiful area was next season! Happy hunting.



Puffball



Shelf Mushroom



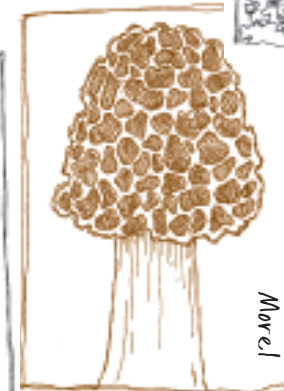
Oyster Cap



Shaggy Mane



Parasol Mushroom



Morel

Written by Jessica Terrell, Naturalist

HABITAT HAPPENINGS
Runge Conservation Nature Center
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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Volunteer News



Gretchen "Crafty" Hanna

Volunteers in Action



Bubba the Tree Frog



Volunteer Milestones

Patsy Dresselhaus	750 hrs
Karen Dunkle	500 hrs
Pam Jones	750 hrs
Julie Lundsted	3000 hrs
Charlie Skornia	1250 hrs
Judy Yoder	2500 hrs



Chef Paul Harvey

What's Happening

September

- 17—Begin watching for puffballs and other fall mushrooms.
- 24—Tiger salamanders move to ponds in the rain.
- 28—Bittersweet starts to ripen.
- 29—Pawpaw fruits ripen.

October

- 6—Cardinal flowers bloom along Ozark streams.
- 16—Chimney swifts begin migration.
- 17—Beginning of peak fall color in maples, oaks, and hickories.
- 23—Peak of green-winged teal migration.
- 30—Bullfrogs begin hibernation.



Funnel Cap

Exhibits—September & October

Photographic Prints "Moods from the Missouri Landscape" by Steven Wright

The careful composition and moody colors, especially in Wright's large landscapes, suggest painted canvas rather than photographic prints.

His photos captivate with detail, from a close-up of a coneflower to a squall line rolling over a weathered barn. The images, mostly from state and national parks around Missouri, capture familiar, everyday beauty, and elevate it.



Check It Out!

From crayons and glue to tracks and treks, there's something new and exciting every weekend at Runge. You don't need to call, just stop by between 10 AM and Noon on Saturdays or from 1 to 3 PM on Sundays. It is an opportunity you won't want to miss!



Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to the outdoor world! Join Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6-13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Each month we discover awesome new stuff and make great friends! Make plans to join over 500 other members of the coolest club around! Come to one of these meetings and we'll sign you up.

Hunting Safe and Sound

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pollywogs (Ages 6-8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9-13) combine for this meeting.

Have you ever thought about joining your parent or other adult on a hunting trip? Maybe you'd get the chance to see a wild turkey fan his tail and do a little dance. A whitetail deer might step right in front of your deer stand for the perfect shot. Hunting can be very exciting, but along with the excitement comes a very serious responsibility. We need to know how to handle our firearms safely! As Conservation Kids, we want to help you learn more about hunting safely so you can enjoy the sport for many years to come. At this special two-hour event we will learn and practice the main safety rules in handling a firearm. You will even have the chance to aim safely and fire a pellet gun at a target. Come learn more about hunting safely!

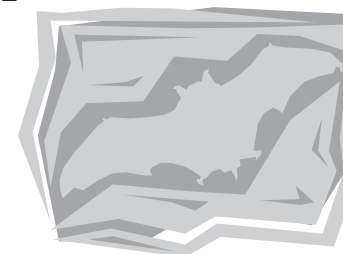
AcroBats!

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6-8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9-13) combine for this meeting.

Flying around with the greatest of ease...catching insects on the breeze...it's our friends the "Acro"Bats! These amazing flying mammals use sonar to find supper and sleeping quarters. Go "batty" with us as we sing a bat song, make a bat mobile, and even eat a bat-like snack! If weather permits, we'll head outside to use our bat detector to hear bats in flight.



Hey Parents!

While big brother/sister attend Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler can be involved in a Little Acorns program at the same time!

Scout Packs



Beginning this September, scout leaders will be able to check out packs from the Runge Conservation Nature Center to help their groups with outdoor skills. Each pack will include an instruction packet and equipment to work on a badge.

Each pack may be checked out for a maximum of one week. You are responsible for all the items within the pack. Only one pack may be checked out at a time.

The packs available in September include:
Wolf Cub Elective #13 - *Birds*
Cub Scout Achievement #5 - *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*
Brownie Try It - *Animals*
Brownie Try It - *Plants*

Contact: Andrea Putnam 573/526-5544

Scout Programs. Call September 3rd to make your reservation. These programs are for scout groups with 10 or fewer members in their group. If you have over 10, contact the nature center to schedule your group to receive a program of your own.

Water Everywhere Try-It

Brownies

Wednesday, September 18-6:30 PM

Webelos Forester Badge

Cub Scouts

Wednesday, September 25-6:30 PM

Earth & Sky Try-It

Brownies

Wednesday, October 2-6:30 PM

Eco-Explorer Try-It

Brownies

Wednesday, October 9-6:30 PM

Bear Achievement#5

Bear Cub Scouts

Wednesday, October 16-6:30 PM

Bird Elective

Wolf Cub Scouts

Wednesday, October 23-6:30 PM

Little Acorns Program

(3-6 years of age)

September 24 ~ 6 PM
Rainbow Romp

Colors surround us, especially outdoors! As we walk a trail this month, we will become a part of nature's painting and search for the colors of the rainbow.

October 15 ~ 7 PM
Slugs and Snails

A silvery trail is left by a slow moving snail. A slippery slug is slimier than a bug. Slip into the small world of these fascinating creatures this month.

Reservations not required.

Events for... *September*

Registration for all programs begins on **September 3rd**. Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

8 Sunday
Otterly Amazing
2 PM -- Families
Back by popular demand! Join Glenn Chambers and his pair of live river otters for a fascinating program that explains otter life history and the successful restoration project. Reservations required.

12 Thursday
Native Butterflies and Moths
7 PM -- Adults
Days are shorter and autumn is approaching. Missouri's butterflies and moths are busy visiting late summer plants. You can learn ways to attract these colorful insects to your yard and garden. Spend this evening with a Runge Naturalist viewing images of some of our spectacular butterflies and moths. This program is sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. The business meeting will follow the presentation. Reservations not required.

19 Thursday
Wildlifers--Quilt Block
10-11:30 AM, 1-2:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM, and 6-7:30 PM -- 50+ Years
In July 1804, in the northwest corner of Missouri, Captain Lewis wrote "*I saw one of the most beautiful prairies that I ever beheld.*" Join us this month when we put together our "most beautiful" block ever--the prairie. Reservations required.

Little Acorns 3-6 years of age

Rainbow Romp
Colors surround us, especially outdoors! As we walk a trail this month, we will become a part of nature's painting and search for the colors of the rainbow. Reservations required.

Tuesday, September 10 – 10 AM
Tuesday, September 10 – 6 PM
Saturday, September 14 – 10 AM
Sunday, September 22 – 3 PM
Wednesday, September 25 – 1 PM

Babes in the Woods
Birth - 2 years of age

Friday, September 13 – 10 AM
Saturday, September 21 – 10 AM
Thursday, September 26 – 10 AM

22 Sunday
There's Fun in Fungus with Journaling
1 PM -- Families
With playful names like jelly tooth, tumbling puffball, jack o' lantern, elegant stinkhorn, and big laughing gym, we're sure to have fun updating our nature notes. Fall is prime time for sprouting mushrooms, puffballs, and bracket fungi. So don't miss out as we focus on fungus while sketching and writing in our journals. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required.

28 Saturday
The Runge Hiking Club
8 AM-4 PM -- 18 Years and older
See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

With over 17,000 acres, **Lake of the Ozarks State Park** is Missouri's largest. One of the quieter spots in the park, Patterson Hollow Wild Area is 1,275 acres of mature forest, old fields, and an intermittent drainage with small springs and seeps. This month, we'll hike the **Woodland Trail** (6 miles), which meanders through the middle of the wild area. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Did you know that the bright orange jack-o'-lantern mushroom glows in the dark?



The Runge Reading Guild - Discover Nature Through Reading

27th Friday
6:30 - 8 PM -- Adults Only

So many talented authors and illustrators have produced wonderful children's books centered around nature. Often, these books teach us more than many reference books ever will. The colors and designs capture us immediately. We are further enveloped by the simple language they use to describe an animal or plant or a series of events in nature. Often, we must become like a child to understand once again the mysteries of those things we have come to take for granted. Through a child's eye we see anew the freshness and wonders of creation.

This month the **Runge Reading Guild** will discover nature through children's books. Recently, in the nature center exhibit area we featured a "Book Walk." This walk took you through the beautiful art that appears on book jackets. Illustrators and authors such as Eric Carle, Jim Arnosky, Denise Fleming, Michael J. Caduto, Joseph Bruchac, Thomas Locker, and others were featured. Titles included: *The Very Clumsy Click Beetle*, *The Very Quiet Cricket*, *Keepers of the Earth*, *Feathers for Lunch*, *13 Moons on Turtle's Back*, and many more.

These are just a few examples of exemplary nature writing and art. Pick your favorite and share it with others this month, and learn more about nature through books. Reservations required.

Events for... *October*

Registration for all programs begins on **September 3rd**. Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

10 Thursday
Grow Native!
7 PM -- Adults
Fall's the perfect time to make your home



landscape a haven for songbirds and other wildlife. Judy Allmon, executive director of the *Grow Native!* program, will offer ideas for native landscapes that anyone can use, from containers to transition borders to full native conversion landscapes.

This program is sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. The business meeting will follow the presentation. Reservations not required.

13 Sunday
Fungus Among Us Tree Dwellers
3 PM -- Families
In this brand new puppet show, the Runge puppeteers bring Fungus to life! Fungus is worried about what he is doing to the tree where he lives. He thinks he is doing damage. Not to worry! Chipmunk, bluebird, gray squirrel, and others join Fungus to explain how they all live and work together - for good! Reservations not required.

17 Thursday
Wildlifers--Quilt Block
10-11:30 AM, 1-2:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM, and 6-7:30 PM -- 50+ Years
Slips of the Osage Orange were included in a letter Meriwether Lewis sent to the President. Lewis was told that the Osage Indians "give an extravagant account of the exquisite odour of this fruit." This month we will pay particular attention to this unique fruit and piece together an Osage Orange quilt block. Reservations required.

Little Acorns 3-6 years of age

Slugs and Snails
A silvery trail is left by a slow moving snail. A slippery slug is slimier than a bug. Slip into the small world of these fascinating creatures this month. Reservations required.

Friday, October 4 – 10 AM
Tuesday, October 8 – 6 PM
Saturday, October 12 – 10 AM
Wednesday, October 16 – 2 PM
Saturday, October 19 – 10 AM



19 Saturday
The Runge Hiking Club
8 AM-6 PM -- 18 Years and older
Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A naturalist or volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.
The Lincoln Hills are a band of uplifted limestone hills about 15 miles wide and 60 miles long. What's unusual about them is that they are surrounded by the glaciated plains of north Missouri. We'll hike hill after hill, each separated by a deep "V", on the **Long Spring Trail** (6 miles) at **Cuivre River State Park**. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

22 Tuesday
Deer Processing
6-7:30 PM -- Families
Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year! We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about do-it-yourself processing. Reservations required.

Haunted Habitats

Friday, October 25
6 - 9 PM -- Families
(Rain date-October 26)



Refer to back page for details.

Babes in the Woods
Birth - 2 years of age

Discovery Walk
This month we will enjoy the crisp, cool air of autumn and walk a trail. In addition to changing colors, we are likely to discover a multitude of things to tickle our senses. As always, bring strollers or backpacks and wear walking shoes. Get outdoors! Reservations required.

Friday, October 11 – 10 AM
Tuesday, October 15 – 10 AM
Thursday, October 17 – 10 AM

27 Sunday
Beginning Archery
1 PM and 3 PM -- 6 years and older
"I shoot an arrow into the air, and where it lands..." With a little practice we can help you hit the target. Bring the family and join us at the nature center for some archery fun. We'll provide the equipment, instruction, and targets. You provide the smiles. Make a point to be there! Reservations required. No scout groups, please.

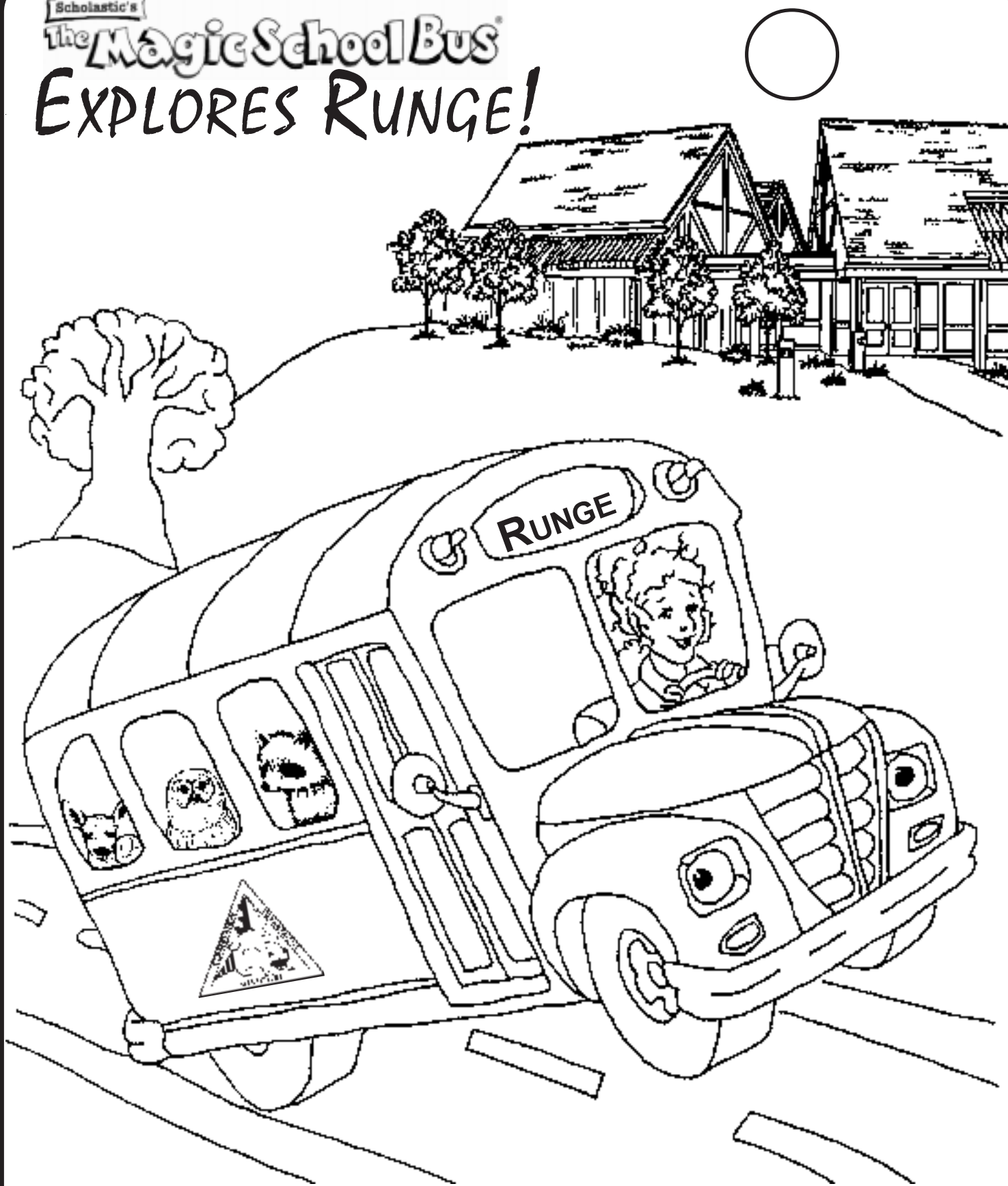
The Runge Reading Guild - Discover Nature Through Reading

18th Friday
6:30 - 8 PM -- Adults Only

The Orchid Thief - is it for real? This story combines mystery, humor, obsession, and thievery to weave a path through a real-life adventure. Orchids in Missouri? We do indeed have orchids in Missouri. They may not be in the same class as the ones found in south Florida or in as much abundance, but they are here. The author, Susan Orlean introduces us to the amazingly diverse habitat of south Florida where the orchids grow and to an industry that has left a gigantic impact on the environment both here and abroad. There is an abundance of natural history in this book. "Damp heat, bugs, wild hogs, snapping turtles, poisonous snakes – and orchids..." Wouldn't have missed it." – so writes the *New York Newsday*. It's also a story about passion and obsession. "Read it out on your patio, next to your orchid plant, but take care... obsession can be contagious." — *Gulfshore Life*.

This pick for the **Runge Reading Guild** to discuss should be lively, entertaining, and thought provoking. Travel with us this month and find the exotic connections we may have to the orchid world. Reservations required.

Scholastic's
The Magic School Bus
EXPLORES RUNGE!



Runge Conservation Nature Center
and
Scholastic's

Coloring Contest

Entries will be accepted for three categories:

3-5 years

6-8 years

9-11 years

First, second, and third place prizes will be presented in each category. Presentation to winners will be during the Haunted Habitats event on October 25, 6-9pm.

Return your finished artwork to Runge Conservation Nature Center, Coloring Contest, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180 no later than Friday, October 18th.

Entries become the property of the Runge Conservation Nature Center.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: () _____ Age: _____